

Remarks

Claims 1-33 are currently pending and stand rejected. Claims 1, 8, 14, 21, 24, 25, and 33 have been amended. Applicants assert that the claims are now in condition for allowance as set forth more fully below.

Interview Summary

The undersigned participated in a telephone interview with the Examiner on September 21, 2004. During the interview, deficiencies in the Kaufman reference were discussed relative to subject matter of the present invention. Namely, it was discussed that Kaufman provides a message from a telecommunications network to a voice mail system of an individual so that callers to the individual hear the message if the caller doesn't answer by the message being played from the voice mail system of the called party. Kaufman does not disclose or otherwise contemplate providing the message to the calling party directly from the server connected to the central office. Subject matter of the present invention provides for recorded announcements of a service node or other network system of the telecommunications network providing a recorded announcement to a central office switch where it is then played from the central office to the calling party. Thus, the message is played to the calling party from the telecommunications network rather than from the called party's voice mail system.

102 Rejections

Claims 1-33 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Kaufman (US Pat 6,035,018). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Claims 1-7

The Office Action has rejected claim 1 by stating that Kaufman discloses all of the elements. However, amended claim 1 recites, among other things, that recorded announcements include information for callers on the communications network and that a call from an individual is connected to the at least one central terminal, with the at least one central terminal receiving an appropriate recorded announcement from the announcement service node so as to audibly convey information to the calling individual

as the recorded announcement is played from the at least one central terminal during the call. Thus, the announcement is provided to the caller from the central terminal of the communications network that is connected to the service node also of the communications network. Furthermore, the announcement is provided to audibly convey information to the individual.

As noted above, Kaufman is concerned with providing announcements from the communications network to a voice mail system of a called party so that the voice mail system can provide the announcement to a calling party without further intervention of the communications network. This is contrary to the recitations of claim 1. Kaufman does not disclose or otherwise contemplate providing an announcement to a calling party by a service node of the network providing an announcement to a central terminal of the network. Instead, Kaufman relies on the voice mail system of the called party to do so, and if the voice mail system or telephone line of the called party is down or otherwise fails, the announcement is not conveyed to the calling party.

While Kaufman does disclose that the recording may be provided to the voice mail system by audibly playing the announcement for recording, there is no disclosure that the message is audibly played for the individual who has placed a call to thereby audibly convey information to that individual. Indeed, the recordings do not convey information to the owner of the voice mail system as the message is provided to the voice mail system for recording rather than audibly to the individual who owns the voice mail system and because the message is for callers to the individual who owns the voice mail system rather than for that individual.

Accordingly, because claim 1 includes recitations not disclosed by Kaufman, claim 1 is allowable over the current rejection. Dependent claims 2-7 depend from an allowable claim 1 and are also allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claims 8-33

The Office Action has rejected claims 8-33 by also stating that Kaufman discloses all of the elements. Amended independent claims 8, 14, 21, 24, 25, and 33 recite limitations similar to those of claim 1 whereby recorded announcements are played from the network to audibly convey information to the calling party. Accordingly, these

claims and their dependents are also allowable over Kaufman for at least the same reasons as for claim 1.

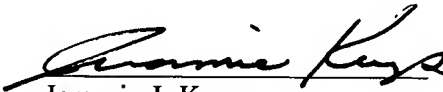
Conclusion

Applicants assert that the application including claims 1-33 is now in condition for allowance. Applicants request reconsideration in view of the amendments and remarks above and further request that a Notice of Allowability be provided. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

No fees are believed due. However, please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3025.

Respectfully submitted,

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